

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING EAGLE SCOUT TROOP 121 ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2018

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Scoutmaster Mitch Gorsen and all the leaders and young people of Eagle Scout Troop 121 on its 50th anniversary. It has been 50 years of amazing success, culminating in the 300th young man from the troop being recently awarded an Eagle. Troop 121 is known for its adventurous spirit, sending Scouts to New Mexico, to the wilds of northern Minnesota and to Sea Base in Florida to experience a range of physical and mental challenges that mold Eagles.

A major force in the success of Troop 121 was the presence of John Hooten who passed away in March. John served as Scoutmaster for more than 20 years, motivating many to attain the highest rank of Eagle Scout. His contributions will never be forgotten.

Troop 121 is well positioned to continue its mission of providing a quality Scouting program for the young men and women in the Granite Bay/South Placer area. I wish them continued success in helping create America's future leaders.

HONORING JONATHAN GOLD

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2018

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jonathan Gold, award-winning food critic and longtime Pasadena resident, who passed away in July from pancreatic cancer at the age of 57. Mr. Gold was the first food writer to be awarded a Pulitzer Prize, in 2007, and was also the recipient of five James Beard Awards for his reviews and criticism.

Jonathan Gold was born in South Los Angeles on July 28, 1960, and remained a true Angeleno for his whole life, attending high school in Beverly Hills and college at my alma mater, the University of California, Los Angeles. While he is best known for his passion for food, Mr. Gold is credited for introducing Los Angeles and its visitors to new foods, culture and experiences.

Mr. Gold began his writing career as a copy editor for the LA Weekly while he was still a student at UCLA. After receiving his bachelor's degree in the history of music, he went on to serve as a music editor for the Weekly, until he began writing his now-famous food column, Counter Intelligence, in 1986. At a time when most food critics were focused on haute cuisine and high-end dining, Mr. Gold was an avid pursuer of local establishments, pub-

lishing rave reviews of street food, hole-in-the-wall joints, and neighborhood spots. His poetic prose, vivid descriptions of taste and texture, and eclectic references to everything from pop culture to historical ephemera earned his writing many devoted followers. It was no surprise that he won the Pulitzer Prize in 2007.

I have personally followed Mr. Gold's work for years, as he moved from the LA Weekly, to Gourmet, to the Los Angeles Times, shining a light on neighborhoods and establishments all around Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley. Mr. Gold's reviews became an essential guide to Los Angeles, giving a window into the way in which food can bring communities together, writing about both the food itself and the people who prepared it. He frequently wrote about ethnic food and Los Angeles' many immigrant communities, in an effort he described as "celebrating the glorious mosaic of the city." His deep love of Los Angeles showed in the rich map he created of the city and its people, crisscrossing the San Gabriel Valley in his pickup truck, always in search of new and exciting places to eat and new people with whom to share a meal.

Mr. Gold is survived by his wife, Laurie Ochoa, and their two children, Isabel and Leon. It is my distinct honor to commemorate the life and writing of Jonathan Gold and his lasting impact on Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF OAKTON-VIENNA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna on the occasion of their 20th anniversary. I also wish to thank them for their many contributions to the Northern Virginia community. Organized in 1997, the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) is a non-profit that provides services to help older adults continue living independently, and it offers programs that supply opportunities for enrichment, learning, and socialization.

Every year, approximately 200 volunteers provide invaluable services in support of older residents who want to age in place in their homes and stay engaged in social activities. Services are available free of charge to anyone age 50 or older who resides in the local community.

Last year, volunteers provided 9,922 hours of service to the Northern Virginia community. Volunteer drivers provided more than 900 round-trip rides for medical reasons and other errands. Volunteers also made regular contact with individuals who may have limited interaction and may feel isolated in their homes. "Handy Helpers" made minor home repairs to help older adults keep their homes safe and livable.

The Health Team provided individual health counseling, referral to community resources, and blood pressure readings. Volunteers also run programs such as Lunch n' Life, Adventures in Learning, trips and outings, special events, and caregivers' support groups. In 2014, SCOV was recognized for these efforts as an Outstanding Volunteer Caregiving Program by the National Volunteer Caregiving Network.

The services and programs offered by this extraordinary organization help to ensure that our seniors stay connected to the community through the promotion of active lifestyles, ongoing social integration, and availability of resources for older residents to use and share their experience, training, and skills.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna on its 20th anniversary and for its work to enable older adults in our community to age in place and enjoy their golden years with dignity and independence. I thank the many volunteers who generously dedicate their time and efforts to the welfare of our neighbors. The value of their contributions cannot be overstated and are truly deserving of our highest praise.

CHINA'S WAR ON CHRISTIANITY AND OTHER RELIGIOUS FAITHS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we held a hearing on the lack of religious freedom in China today.

Several years ago during a visit to the United States, Xi Jinping chose to be interviewed by a Chinese reporter living in the U.S. After the interview, President Xi asked a single question of this reporter—not about his family and not about whether he enjoyed living in America—the one question he asked was "Why do so many Chinese students and faculty living in the United States become Christians?"

Whatever was behind that question, religious freedom conditions in China have not improved because of it. Quite the opposite, in fact, as Xi has personally launched efforts to "sinacize religion" and the central government has issued commands to each provincial Party Secretary, making them responsible to bring religion in line with Communist Party ideology.

The Chinese government is an equal opportunity abuser of religious freedom. As U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Chair Tenzin Dorjee testified, Xi Jinping's stated goal of "sincacization" affects all religious communities in China—Tibetan Buddhists, Falun Gong practitioners, Daoists, Muslims, and Christians.

Over the past year, the Chinese government has intensified the most severe crackdown on religious activities since the Cultural Revolution. Regulations on religious affairs issued in

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